

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* For use in a communication system where connections are established between an external network and users of mobile radio subscriber units by way of a radio access network and each established connection is handled by an associated data processing circuit, a method comprising:

detecting a failure in a data processing circuit indicating that the data processing circuit is not functioning and thus can no longer handle established connections;

identifying one or more established mobile radio subscriber unit connections being handled by the failed data processing circuit; and

sending a message to a radio access network node identifying the one or more identified mobile radio subscriber unit connections,

wherein the radio access network node is used to establish one or more radio access bearers associated with the one or more identified mobile radio subscriber unit connections,

wherein each mobile radio ~~user~~-subscriber unit connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the mobile radio subscriber unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

2. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

the radio access network node releasing the one or more mobile radio subscriber unit connections identified in the message because the failed data processing circuit is not functioning.

3. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

the radio access network node maintaining one or more mobile radio subscriber connections not determined to be handled by the failed data processing circuit.

4. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

the radio access network node maintaining a signaling connection associated with a mobile radio subscriber unit affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning.

5. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, wherein the mobile radio subscriber unit uses plural connections during a communications session.

6. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

generating a list identifying the one or more mobile radio subscriber units and one or more mobile radio subscriber unit connections affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning, and

wherein the message sent to the radio access network node includes the list.

7. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

~~generating~~ sending a list to the radio access network node identifying the one or more mobile radio subscriber units affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning without identifying mobile radio subscriber unit connections, and

the radio access network node releasing all subscriber unit connections associated with the one or more mobile radio subscriber units in the list.

8. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claims 6 or 7, further comprising:

indicating in the list whether a signaling connection associated with a mobile radio subscriber unit affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning should be released or maintained.

9. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 6, wherein the list includes identifiers for the one or more mobile radio subscriber units affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning and for the one or more mobile radio subscriber unit connections affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning.

10. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 9, wherein when the list does not include connection identifiers, all connections for a mobile radio subscriber unit are released.

11-13. Canceled.

14. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 13, wherein the message is sent using an existing control signaling message ~~from a radio network controller node to an SGSN in the core network.~~

15. *(Currently Amended)* For use in a communication system where connections are established between an external network and users of radio subscriber units by way of a radio access network and each established connection is controlled by an associated data processing device, a method comprising:

detecting a failure in a data ~~processor~~ processing device in a node where the failed data processing device is no longer functional and thus can no longer control any established connections, and

sending a message to a radio access network node identifying the failed data processing device ~~to one or more other nodes,~~

wherein the ~~one or more other nodes release~~ radio access network node releases mobile radio subscriber unit connections associated with the identified failed data processing device,

wherein the radio access network node is used to establish one or more radio access bearers associated with the one or more identified mobile radio subscriber unit connections,

wherein each mobile radio subscriber~~user~~ unit connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the mobile radio user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

16. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 15, further comprising:

assigning a corresponding network address to each of multiple data processing devices in the node, and

when a radio subscriber unit connection is established, sending an address for each data processing device associated with the radio subscriber unit connection to one or more other nodes,

wherein the message includes the network address of the failed data processing device.

17. *(Original)* The method in claim 16, wherein the network address is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

18. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 15, further comprising:

detecting a failure of a board containing plural data processing devices such that none of the data processing devices on the board can control an established connection,

wherein the message identifies the addresses of the plural data processing devices on the board, and

wherein the ~~one or more other nodes release~~ radio access network node releases radio unit connections associated with the failed board.

19. Canceled.

20. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 15, further comprising:

generating a list identifying one or more radio subscriber units affected by the detected failure, and

wherein the message sent to the radio access network node includes the list.

21. *(Currently Amended)* For use in a radio communications system providing communications between an external network and radio units, a radio access network that establishes connections between the external network and users of the radio units, comprising:
a radio network control node for communicating with the external network; and
a radio base station node coupled to the radio network controller configured to provide a radio interface with plural radio units,

wherein at least one of the radio network control and radio base station nodes includes multiple data processing devices, where each established connection is controlled by an associated data processing device, and when a failure is detected in one of the data processing devices such that ~~the~~ a failed data processing device is no longer functional and thus can no longer control any established connections, the one node is configured to send a message to ~~another~~ an other of the radio network control and radio base station nodes identifying one or more active and ongoing radio unit connections affected by the failure,

wherein at least one of the radio network control and radio base station nodes is configured to establish one or more radio access bearers associated with the one or more identified mobile radio unit connections,

wherein each connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the radio unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

22. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the other node is configured to release the one or more detected radio unit connections identified in the message.

23. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 22, wherein the other node is configured to maintain one or more radio connections not determined to be affected by the detected failure.

24. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 23, wherein the other node is configured to maintain a signaling link associated with a radio unit affected by the detected failure.

25. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the one node is configured to generate a list identifying the one or more radio units affected by the detected failure and one or more radio unit connections affected by the detected failure, and

wherein the message includes the list.

26. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 25, wherein the list includes identifiers for the one or more radio units affected by the detected failure and for the one or more radio unit connections affected by the detected failure.

27. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein when the list does not include connection identifiers, all connections for a radio subscriber unit are to be released.

28. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the message is a control signaling message.

29. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 28, wherein the message is sent using an existing radio access network control signaling message.

30. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the one node sends a message to the radio unit identifying one or more radio unit connections affected by the failure.

31. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein when a failure is detected in the radio unit, the one node is configured to send a message to the other node to release any connections with the radio unit except a control signaling connection.

32. *(Previously Presented)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the node includes a switch coupled to plural data processing devices.

33. *(Previously Presented)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the node includes a switch coupled to plural boards, each board containing plural data processing devices.

34. *(Currently Amended)* For use in providing communication connections between an external network and a user of a mobile subscriber unit, a core network node communicating with coupled to one or more radio access network nodes that communicate with mobile subscriber units over a radio interface, the core network node comprising:

multiple data processing devices for controlling established connections,

a controller configured to perform the following tasks:

detect a failure in the one of the data processing devices such that the failed data processing device is no longer functional and thus can no longer control any established connections;

determine one or more active and ongoing mobile subscriber unit connections affected by the detected failure; and

send a message to one or more ~~other~~ radio access network nodes identifying the one or more affected mobile subscriber unit connections,

wherein the one or more radio access network nodes are configured to establish one or more radio access bearers associated with the one or more affected mobile subscriber unit connections,

wherein each mobile subscriber unit connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the mobile subscriber unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

35. *(Currently Amended)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the controller is configured (1) to generate a list identifying the one or more mobile subscriber units affected by the detected failure and one or more mobile subscriber unit connections affected by the detected failure and (2) to include the list in the message to the one or more other radio access network nodes.

36. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 35, wherein the list includes identifiers for the one or more mobile subscriber units affected by the detected failure and for the one or more mobile subscriber unit connections affected by the detected failure.

37. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the controller is configured to generate a list identifying the one or more mobile subscriber units affected by the detected failure without identifying mobile subscriber unit connections, and wherein the list is used to release all mobile subscriber unit connections associated with the one or more mobile subscriber units in the list.

38. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claims 35 or 37, wherein the controller is configured to indicate in the list whether a signaling connection associated with a mobile subscriber unit affected by the detected failure should be released or maintained.

39. Canceled.

40. *(Currently Amended)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the core network node includes:

a switch coupled to multiple data processing devices.

41. *(Currently Amended)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the core network node includes:

plural processor boards coupled to a switch, each processor board having plural associated data processing devices.

42. *(Currently Amended)* An access network comprising the core network node claimed in claim 34.

43. *(Currently Amended)* For use in a communication system where connections are established between an external network and users of radio subscriber units by way of a radio access network and each established connection is handled by one of multiple data processing circuits in a radio access network node, apparatus in the radio access network node comprising:

means for determining one or more active and ongoing radio subscriber unit connections affected by a failure detected in one of the multiple data processing circuits indicating that the data processing circuit is not functioning and thus can no longer handle established connections, and

means for sending a message to a core network node identifying the one or more affected established radio subscriber unit connections that can no longer be handled by the failed data processing device,

wherein each established radio subscriber unit connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers established through the radio access network node, and carries information between the radio subscriber unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

44. *(Original)* A system including the apparatus in claim 43, further comprising:

means for releasing the one or more affected radio subscriber unit connections identified

in the message.

45. *(Original)* A system including the apparatus in claim 44, further comprising:

means for maintaining one or more radio subscriber connections not determined to be

affected by the detected failure.

46-51. Canceled.

52. *(Currently Amended)* A system in claim ~~51~~ 43, wherein the radio access network
node is a radio network controller and the core network node is an SGSN.